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We Have Only Scratched the Surface: The Role of Student Research in Institutional Repositories

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A photograph of an iceberg floating in a dark blue ocean under a clear blue sky. The visible tip of the iceberg is small and jagged, while the much larger, submerged part of the iceberg is visible below the water line, illustrating the concept of 'scratching the surface'.

We Have Only Scratched the Surface

The Role of Student Scholarship in Institutional Repositories

Becky Thoms—Head of Digital Initiatives

Betty Rozum—Data Services Coordinator & Undergraduate Research Librarian

Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University

Outline

- IR Landscape
- Student scholarship in IRs—then and now
- Examples of variety of student scholarship
- Trajectory of our research
- Survey results
- Conclusions
- Future work

IR Landscape


- First IR on the scene—MIT digital archive in early 2000s
- Today, 297 IRs in the US
- Average # of items—28,751

Transformation of IRs



Live Audience Poll Using Poll Everywhere

- What student research do you actively collect?

A background image showing a conference poster titled 'The relationship between land cover and risk perceptions of heat waves across the U.S.' with the Utah State University logo. Two people, a woman in a grey sweater and an older man in a brown jacket, are looking at the poster. The poster has a blue header with the number '8' and a 'Results' section with a bar chart.

Characterizing and Quantifying Night Sky Brightness in Utah and Arizona

[Download](#)

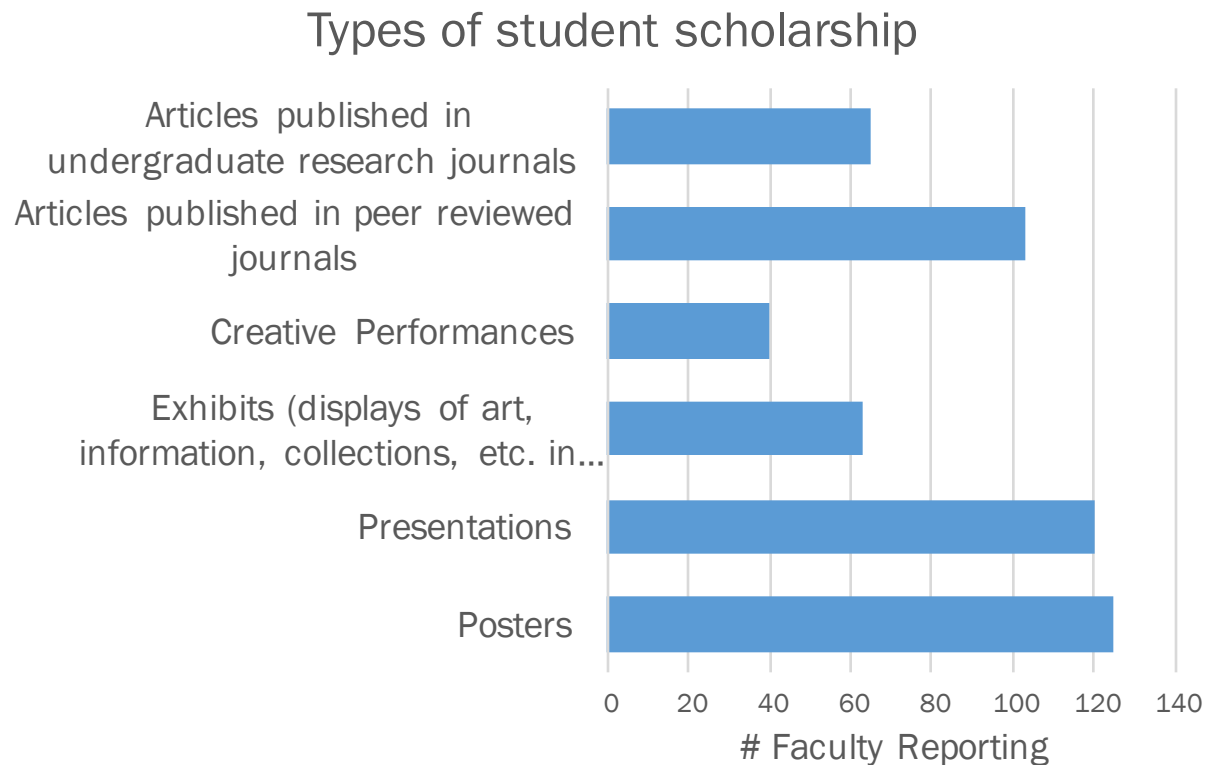
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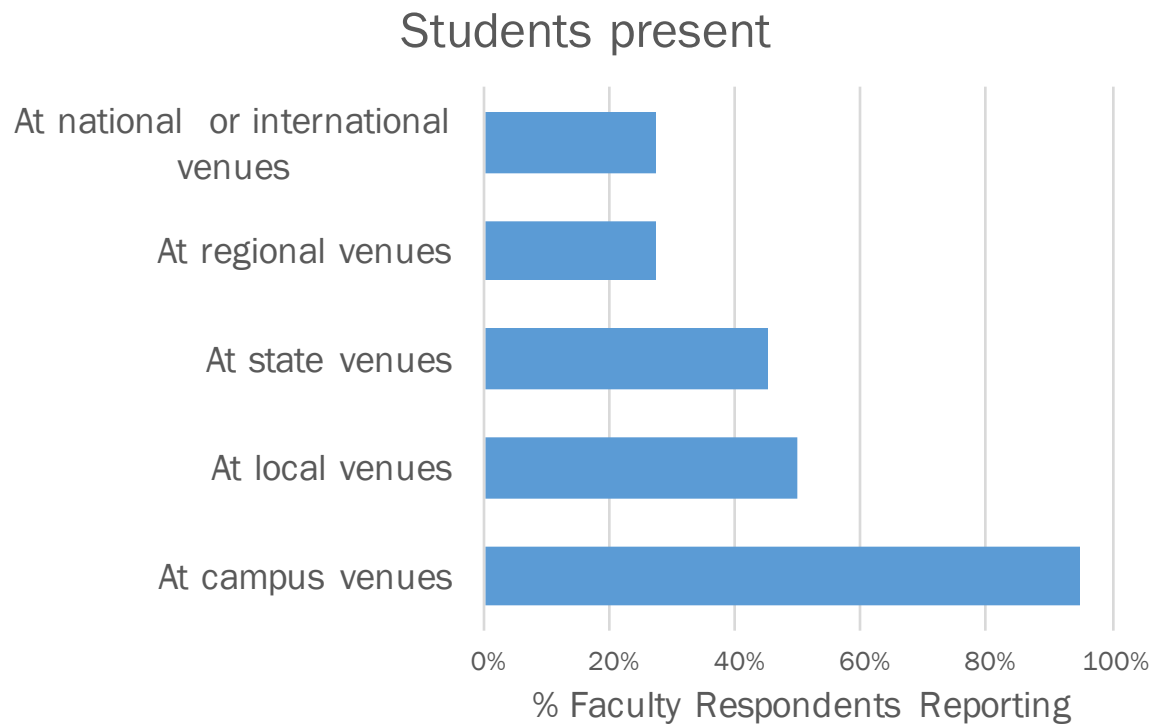
ARCHIVES
RESOURCES
SCHOLARSHIP

The Story of Our Study

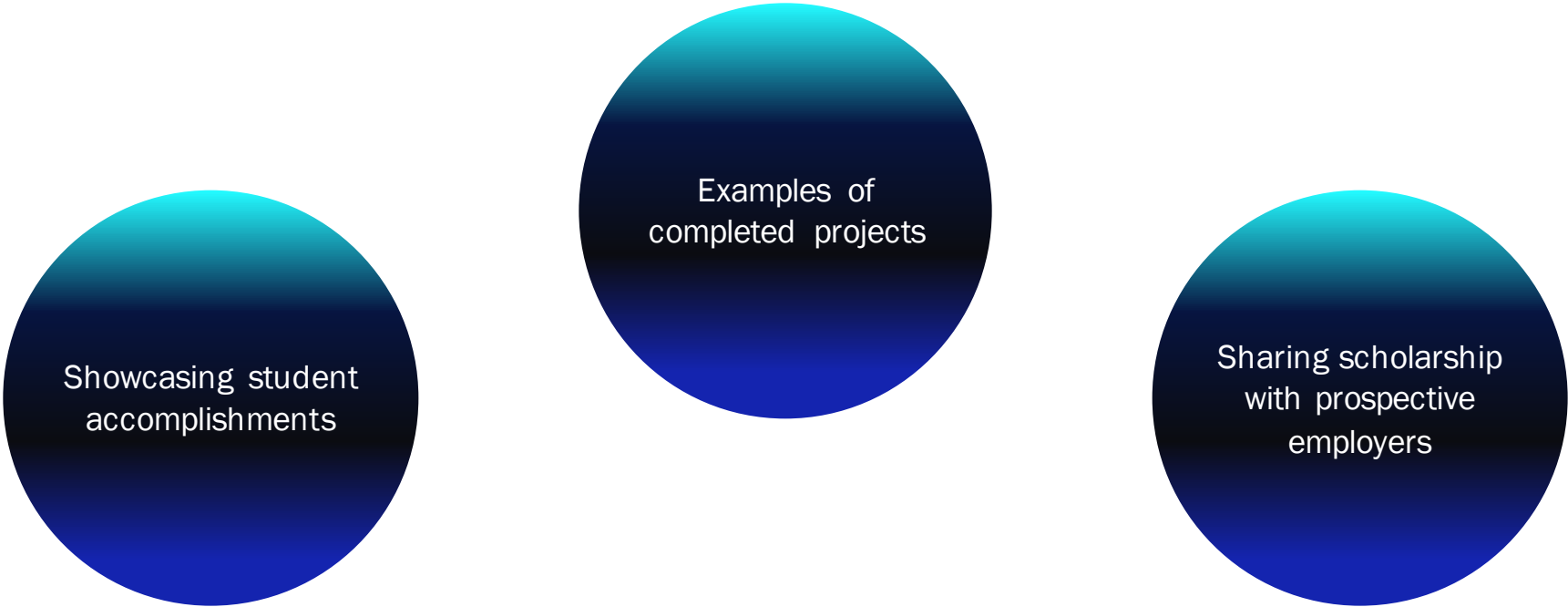
Survey says...forms of student scholarship



Where is it happening



Survey results–Benefits (possible & realized) of student work



Showcasing student
accomplishments

Examples of
completed projects

Sharing scholarship
with prospective
employers

Live Audience Poll Using Poll Everywhere

- What concerns do you, or others at your institution, have about collecting student research?

Survey says...

- Faculty concerns about collecting/preserving student research
 - Quality of student work
 - Work is slated for publication
 - Data in work is undergoing additional analysis and will be included in future publications

Survey says...

- IR Librarians concerns about collecting/preserving student
 - Not enough staff time
- Difficulty obtaining scholarship
 - determining when students present research at off campus venues
 - students publish papers with faculty
 - Actually *getting* the scholarship

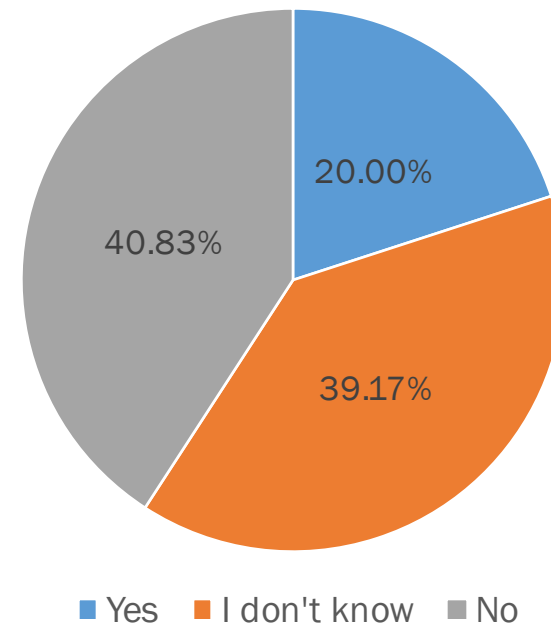
Live Audience Poll Using Poll Everywhere

- Do the benefits outweigh the concerns?

Conclusions

- Preserving and promoting student research has clear alignment with institutional mission
- Libraries can be leaders in helping campus partners see the value and potential of this resource
- Opportunity

Are Your Students' Works in the IR?





Future Work

- Spread the good word—student research is a great collaborative opportunity for libraries
- Subject librarians
- Replicate survey at other institutions nation wide

THANK YOU

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